

(c) Government, through component of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on development of marine fisheries provides subsidy amounting to 50% of cost of conversion of deep sea fishing trawlers into tuna long liners with a ceiling of Rs. 15 Lakhs per vessel. Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) also have similar scheme for providing financial assistance for such conversion of trawlers into tuna long liners. In addition to this, many public sector Banks are willing to provide credit facilities on merits of such proposals.

(d) Question does not arise.

Procurement on MSP

†1029. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of wheat, gram, barley and other foodgrains procured on minimum support price under Rabi crops during 2006-07;
- (b) the quantum of procurement and storage of these crops on minimum support price during 2005-06; and
- (c) the reasons for this shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The procurement of wheat during Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07 has been 92.26 lakh tonnes, while no procurement of gram and barley has taken place during 2006-07.

(b) and (c) The procurement of wheat during Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07 has been less mainly on account of high open market prices and active participation by private traders.

National Horticulture Mission and National Bamboo Mission

1030. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have set up a National Horticulture Mission and also a National Bamboo Mission with emphasis and to display the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

seriousness in unleashing the tremendous potential for their growth and development.

- (b) if so, the details worked out, so far;
- (c) the present status thereof; and
- (d) the aims and objectives set to achieve under these missions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "National Horticulture Mission (NHM)" during the Tenth Plan with effect from 2005-06, with a total outlay of Rs. 23000.00 crore, for holistic development of horticulture sector, duly ensuring an end to end approach having backward and forward linkages, covering production, post harvest management and marketing, with the active participation of all the stake-holders. The thrust of the Mission is to promote an area based regionally differentiated cluster approach for development of horticultural crops, having comparative advantage. The Scheme is in operation in 18 States and two Union Territories.

The Government have approved the setting up of National Bamboo Mission in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme to be implemented across the country with an outlay of Rs. 568.23 crore for a period of five years with effect from 2006-07. The outlay for implementation of the Scheme during 2006-07 is Rs. 80 crores.

(d) The main objectives of the National Horticulture Mission are:

- (i) To provide holistic growth of the horticulture sector through an area based regionally differentiated strategy which include research, technology promotion, extension, post harvest management, processing and marketing, in consonance with comparative advantage of each State/region and its diverse agro-climate.
- (ii) To enhance horticulture production, improve nutritional security and income support to farm households.
- (iii) To establish convergence and synergy among multiple on-going and planned programmes for horticulture development.

- (iv) To promote, develop and disseminate technologies, through a seamless blend of traditional wisdom and modern scientific knowledge.
- (v) To create opportunities for employment generation for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youth.

The main objectives of the National Bamboo Mission are:

- (i) To promote the growth of the Bamboo Sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies.
- (ii) To increase the coverage of area under Bamboo in potential areas; with appropriate varieties to enhance yields.
- (iii) To promote marketing of Bamboo and Bamboo based handicrafts.
- (iv) To establish convergence and synergy among stake-holders for development of Bamboo and to promote, develop and disseminate technologies.
- (v) To generate employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youth.

Agricultural production

†1031. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that agricultural production in the country is continuously decreasing;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the steps being taken by Government to increase the agricultural production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) According to the data released by Central Statistical Organisation with revised base year of 1999-2000, agricultural production measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product in agriculture including allied sectors of forestry, logging and fishing showed an increase from Rs. 453932 crore in real terms (at 1999-2000 prices) during 2000-01

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.